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**PRIORITY****SECRET**

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TO DIA  
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1968 MAR 12 19 44Z

SECRET CITE NPIC 3215

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REF: S0134/XX2, DATED 23 FEBRUARY 1968

SUBJ: EVALUATION OF MISSION BU Q00615 FLOWN 1 AUGUST 1967.

1. THIS MISSION EMPLOYED CAMERA NUMBER 25 IN VEHICLE NUMBER H-14. PROCESSING WAS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE 7TH AIR FORCE.

## 2. EVALUATION OF ORIGINAL NEGATIVE:

A. EXPOSURE/RESOLUTION: THE EXPOSURE IS ERRATIC RANGING FROM UNDEREXPOSURE TO OVEREXPOSURE AND THE RESOLUTION IS THEREFORE POOR.

B. CAMERA OPERATION: THE FIRST 1254 FRAMES OF THE MISSION CONTAIN EXCESSIVE BANDING APPROXIMATELY PERPENDICULAR TO THE MAJOR AXIS OF THE FILM. THIS APPEARS SIMILAR TO THAT ASSOCIATED WITH INTERRUPTED SLIT TRAVEL; HOWEVER, THE BANDS IN MANY CASES ARE SLIGHTLY ARCED. THE CONDITION IS SO SEVERE THAT NUMEROUS BANDS (UP TO 0.25 INCH IN WIDTH) CONTAIN NO EXPOSURE. IN MOST CASES THESE BANDS OF NO EXPOSURE DO NOT EXTEND ACROSS THE ENTIRE FORMAT BUT FORM A VARYING "SPIKED" PATTERN FROM THE NON-DATA BLOCK EDGE OF THE FORMAT. ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROBLEM ARE BANDS OF OVEREXPOSURE. IN ADDITION A ONE INCH BAND OF MINUS DENSITY PARALLEL TO THE MAJOR AXIS OF THE FILM AND LOCATED ONE INCH FROM THE DATA EDGE OF THE FILM IS PRESENT ON THESE SAME FRAMES. THE DENSITY WITHIN THIS BAND IS THIN. THESE ANOMALIES DEGRADE OR OBSCURE APPROXIMATELY 75 PERCENT OF THE MISSION. SHUTTER ACTION IS NO LONGER ERRATIC AFTER FRAME 1254; HOWEVER, THE REMAINDER OF THE MISSION (FRAMES 1255 THRU 1632) IS GROSSLY OVEREXPOSED, INDICATING THAT THE SLIT PLATE MAY HAVE SLIPPED OUT OF ITS MOUNTING. THE DATA BLOCK RECORDED SATISFACTORILY THROUGHOUT THE MISSION.

C. OTHER DEGRADATIONS: THE FIRST FRAME OF THE MISSION CONTAINS NUMEROUS SCRATCHES, MINUS DENSITY DOTS AND FELT PEN INK TRANSFERS FROM THE LEADER. A 0.5 INCH LONG TEAR PREVIOUSLY REPAIRED WITH MYLAR TAPE IS PRESENT IN FRAME 519. PLUS AND MINUS DENSITY STREAKS ORIENTED PARALLEL TO THE MAJOR AXIS OF THE FILM ARE PRESENT THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. TRANSFERS OF TITLING PIGMENT ARE PRESENT ALONG THE TITLED EDGE THROUGHOUT THE MISSION. THE LAST FIVE FEET OF MISSION MATERIAL IS FOGGED AND CONTAINS HANDLING MARKS.

D. THE LAST TITLED FRAME OF THE MISSION IS 1632.

## 3. EVALUATION OF DUPLICATE POSITIVE:

A. PRINTING AND PROCESSING ARE GOOD BUT CANNOT COMPENSATE FOR THE POOR IMAGE QUALITY OF THE NEGATIVE.

B. PI SUITABILITY IS POOR DUE TO THE SHUTTER MALFUNCTION AND RESULTING EXPOSURE PROBLEMS.

C. CLOUDS DEGRADE OR OBSCURE APPROXIMATELY 30 PERCENT OF THE ENTIRE MISSION.

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END OF MSG

**SECRET**

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